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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 10/655,582

Confirmation No.: 7331

In re Application of:

Keiji KASHIMA

Group Art Unit: 2871

Filed: September 5, 2003

Examiner: Zhi Qiang Qi

For: LAMINATED RETARDATION OPTICAL ELEMENT, PROCESS
OF PRODUCING THE SAME, AND LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION AND
ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENTS

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed March 7, 2005, applicants hereby provisionally elect, with traverse, to prosecute the claims of Group I (claims 1-23 and 38-50) in this application.

Applicants also hereby provisionally elect, with traverse, Species I for initial examination in this application. Claims 1, 2, 6, 12, 13, and 38-50 read on the elected species. No present claim is generic to both species identified in the Office Action.

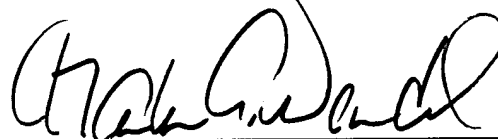
However, applicants respectfully traverse both the restriction requirement and election of species requirement since the subject matter of all of claims 1-50 is sufficiently related that a

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thorough and complete search for the subject matter of the elected claims should encompass a thorough and complete search for the subject matter of the non-elected claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 which states that "[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits." It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to applicant and improper duplicative examination by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Respectfully submitted,

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March 23, 2005
Date

CAW/mhs

Attorney Docket No.: DAIN:750

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